

God bless Benjamin Netanyahu as a leader of the free world.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS SHAWN PATRICK McCLOSKEY

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen American patriot.

Thousands of my constituents lined the streets of Peachtree City, Georgia, this week, waving American flags to honor the late Sergeant First Class Shawn Patrick McCloskey. The sergeant, returning home to his final resting place, died while serving in the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

Before joining the service, Sergeant McCloskey worked for a construction company in Fayette County. Like many of his fellow soldiers, he was a regular American, going to work every day and providing for his family, when he decided to join the military in 2002. At a great time of anguish for our Nation, he heard the call to duty and answered it.

Sergeant McCloskey became a Green Beret in 2004, and his valor won him many medals and awards, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the National Defense Service Medal.

Our Nation mourns the loss of each soldier sacrificed on the battlefield. Today, we remember and grieve this great American hero, Sergeant First Class Shawn McCloskey. He died so that we and his fellow Americans could continue to live in freedom.

We thank the McCloskey family for their gift to us. May God bless them during this hour of grief.

#### SCRAPPING NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, the United States has an operating national missile defense to protect our west coast. Why would we leave our east coast undefended?

In an ABC story today, it reads, "The Obama administration believes Iran has now lied to inspectors three times. In addition to today's news there were revelations in 2002 about a different clandestine plant, and news discovered in 2007 that Iran had been working to design a nuclear warhead."

Our response should be: Don't trust, but defend.

If the Obama administration believes that Iran has lied to the United States on nuclear weapons, why would we drop our defenses on the east coast?

Our national government is constituted to protect our citizens. By scrapping national missile defense for our east coast, we fail in our job.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT SHANNON M. SMITH

(Mr. JORDAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a brave young soldier, one of American's fallen heroes, Staff Sergeant Shannon Smith of Ohio.

Shannon was a native of Marion, Ohio, and graduated from Marion Harding High School, where he was an accomplished wrestler, winning his weight class in the Ohio Heartland Conference for 3 straight years.

He joined the service in September 1997, serving stateside as well as in Afghanistan, Iraq and Bosnia, before joining the 545th Military Police Company, Arctic Military Police Battalion, based at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Shannon died on September 8, 2009, in Iraq while serving his country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Aged 31, he is survived by a loving family, including his wife, Cassie, and his parents, James and Deborah.

In the reading of Shannon's life and in speaking with his family members, it was clear that he had a positive impact on the lives of everyone around him. He had the tenacity of a wrestler and a remarkable sense of humor. He was a leader, a family man and a champion in every sense of the word. He was one of the brave few who stood up and volunteered to serve his country.

He fought to protect us. He gave his life in defense of his family, his community, his State, and his Nation. For this, every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude.

Shannon will be missed each and every day, but the strength of his character and the courage he demonstrated through his service will live on.

#### NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this day, we honor the memory of those whose lives are suddenly violently taken by homicide. Everything a person was or ever will be—stolen by the assassin's hands.

Most of us will never lose a loved one to a violent crime. Most of us never even think about murder. Victims don't wake up in the morning knowing they'll be murdered that day, and for their families, it's the most painful and traumatic thing they can ever imagine. Suddenly, their loved one is gone. What takes their place are images of that violent death and of things left unsaid.

Then comes the police investigation—learning more than any layman wants to know about murder—then the trial if the police capture someone, then crime scene photographs; sitting in the courtroom day by day with the one who stole their loved one's life; the

uncertainty, the strain, the verdict. It's not just the one killed who is the victim of murder.

Today, we honor the families who live through the horror of homicide. Families never get over the murder of a loved one. They think about it every day—forever.

And that's just the way it is.

#### ECONOMY

(Mr. MURPHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I stand today to point to upstate New York's leadership and significant accomplishments in partnering education and 21st-century job creation.

This week, the hard work of the capital region's higher education institutions and businesses were highlighted when President Barack Obama lauded Hudson Valley Community College's great work in preparing young professionals and training leaders for the 21st-century economy.

The President spoke about the vital importance of education and about the role community colleges will play in reviving our economy and in preparing a workforce for the future.

I have spent my entire career working to create jobs and high-tech businesses across upstate New York. One of the keys to preparing our economy for success is having a well-educated workforce.

This week, we heard the President lay out three building blocks for innovation: Education, infrastructure and research. This is exactly what we have been working on and developing in upstate New York, and it is what has made our region a leader in the innovation economy.

As our economy becomes more knowledge-based, the continued leadership of our colleges and universities will be ever more important. Twenty-first century jobs will require increasingly knowledgeable workers in the innovative programs, and our Nation's fine higher education institutions are a key to them.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I was watching the Senate Finance Committee yesterday, and I was pleased to see that they were moving along in adopting health care reform and in moving it out of committee. It couldn't be too soon.

The bottom line is that we've heard more reports about how more and more people have no insurance in this country and that insurance is increasingly becoming unaffordable. I know that the Democrats in both the House and the Senate and, hopefully, some Republicans, are moving forward with health